

illustrations the author was disinclined to give Germany the benefit of the doubt. Lord Sanderson, who had been Permanent Under-Secretary for many years before his retirement in 1906, found it unduly severe, and challenged some of its details. The history of German policy towards this country, he maintained, was not the unchequered record of bkck deeds which the Memorandum seemed to portray. We had often co-operated in a friendly way. But the Germans were very tight bargainers, and they had earned the nickname of "les juifs de la diplomatic." Germany was a young Power, and it was inevitable that she should be somewhat arrogant and impatient; but she was not ungrateful for friendly support. "A great and growing nation cannot be repressed. ... It would be a misfortune that she should be led to believe that in whatever direction she seeks to expand she will find the British lion in her path. There must be places in which German enterprise can find a field without injury to any important British interests, and it would seem wise that in any policy* of development which takes due account of these interests she should be allowed to expect our good will." Crowe replied to his veteran critic, but Sanderson's presentation of Anglo-German contacts seems to me the more judicial.

Not long afterwards, when the Casablanca crisis of 1908 seemed to bring Europe within sight of war, Grey asked Crowe for a Memorandum on Belgian neutrality. The document, published in our eighth volume, took a very strict view of British obligations. The neutrality of Belgium, he argues, was guaranteed not merely because it was a Belgian interest, but because it was an interest of the guaranteeing Powers.

Why else should so onerous a commitment have been incurred ? Even if her neutrality was violated with her connivance, each of the guaranteeing Powers had the right and the duty to call on its partners to join in enforcing the maintenance of neutrality. Still more interesting than this weighty memorandum is the comment on it by Sir Charles Hardtage, the Permanent Under-Secretary: " The liability undoubtedly exists as stated above. But whether we should be called upon to carry out our obligation and to vindicate the neutrality of Belgium in opposing its violation must necessarily depend on our policy and the circumstances of the moment. Supposing that France violated the neutrality of Belgium in a war against Germany, it is, under present circumstances, doubtful whether